



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

There has been 1 case of yellow fever in the city during the week, but there has not been a death for seventeen days.

The few cases of smallpox that have occurred have been promptly isolated, and the premises wherein the cases originated thoroughly disinfected. During the past week there have been 2 cases and 1 death reported. The death occurred in the pesthouse and the new cases are confined in that house.

The total mortality in the city during the past week was 26, 9 being from tuberculosis.

I consider the town free from infection, and think it safe to remove all quarantine restrictions. Havana should keep up a rigid inspection, as smallpox could be conveyed from the infected Mexican towns into Havana, the trip consuming from four to five days.

Respectfully,

SAML. H. HODGSON,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine Hospital Service.

PARAGUAY.

Further concerning plague reported at Asuncion.

WASHINGTON, *December 11, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that in a telegram of the 9th instant the consul of the United States at Asuncion, Paraguay, says: "National health board maintains bubonic plague here; city doctor, Rubio, still declares mortality insignificant."

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,
Secretary of State.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

PORTUGAL.

Plague in Oporto.

LISBON, *November 21, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to refer to my report No. 148, of the 4th instant, and to inclose herewith official bulletins recording the cases of plague that have occurred in Portugal from November 1 to November 20, 1899, both dates inclusive, namely, 41 cases and 17 deaths.

Respectfully,

J. H. THIERIOT,
Chargé d' Affaires.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

TURKEY.

[Report No. 234.]

Report from Constantinople.

PLAGUE CASE ON BOARD THE STEAMSHIP POLYS MYTILINI.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *November 23, 1899.*

In my last report I laid stress on the plague case which occurred on the Ottoman liner, *Polys Mytilini*, which case proved fatal in one of the Trieste hospitals. As I have already reported, said liner came back to

Constantinople, where, according to the decision of the superior sanitary council, she has been disinfected at the quarantine station of Monastir Aghzi, in the upper Bosphorus. Said disinfection, I am sorry to say, has not been very satisfactory, and if a second plague case occurs on board the *Polys Mytilini* I shall not be surprised. I must refer to a very important fact ascertained on board said steamship: When the sanitary official began the operation to asphyxiate the rats in the hold, the captain declared that no rats would be found on board, having already been asphyxiated by carbonic acid gas developed from the residue of vinification, of which residue the ship was laded in her last voyage to Trieste. Is the death of the rats due to said cause or must it be attributed to plague?

ABOLITION OF THE QUARANTINE AGAINST PLAGUE.

At the last sitting of the International Sanitary Commission the question of the abolition of the ten days' quarantine to ships coming from Egypt was again moved. The Dutch sanitary representative proposed to reduce said quarantine to twenty-four hours only, more than fifteen days having elapsed without any fresh plague case occurring in said land. Other members of said sanitary commission proposed to reduce the quarantine only to five days. My conviction is that plague still exists in Alexandria, though plague cases are not registered. The British sanitary commissioner declared that plague can not spread through bales, goods, and general merchandise; there are no instances, he says, in the plague literature stating the spread of said disease otherwise than through living animals.

The United States sanitary commissioner answered that without relating the spread of plague epidemic in the island of Corfu in 1816 and many other irrefutable instances, we have under our eyes the very recent case of the steamship *Polys Mytilini*, the boatswain of which, without having any communication with men coming from Egypt, where said steamship has not been since ten years, fell ill and died from plague. The president put the question to the vote, that is to say, whether hereafter ships and passengers coming from Egypt were to be subjected to twenty-four hours or to five days' quarantine. The members present were 19. I declared I would abstain from voting; the voters then were 18. Nine votes were cast in favor of the twenty-four hours' quarantine and 9, among which the president's vote, in favor of the five days' quarantine. I forward a French copy of the decision taken on the question.

SANITARY NEWS FROM BASSORAH.

The sanitary news from Bassorah states that cholera is spreading. The sanitary physician announces, the 13th instant, that cholera broke out in the neighborhood of Amara, among the people of the tribe of Tacore Sedjir and at Hadjel, near Shatra. On the 17th it is wired that cholera has made its appearance at Fao. Cholera broke out in the city of Shatra the 18th instant, and the 21st it broke out at Kut-el-Amara.

SANITARY NEWS FROM OTHER PROVINCES OF TURKEY.

From the other provinces the sanitary news states that public health is good.

MORTALITY IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The number of deaths registered in Constantinople from the 6th to the 20th instant is 432, of which 5 are from diphtheria, 14 from typhoid fever, and 32 from acute inflammation of the respiratory apparatus.

Respectfully,

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,

United States Sanitary Commissioner.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA—*New South Wales*.—*Newcastle*.—Month of September, 1899. Estimated population, 70,000. Total number of deaths, 51, including diphtheria, 1, and 2 from enteric fever.

CANADA—*Hamilton*.—Month of November, 1899. Estimated population, 52,000. Total number of deaths, 41, including diphtheria, 1; scarlet fever, 1, and 6 from phthisis pulmonalis.

Manitoba—Winnipeg.—Month of November, 1899. Estimated population, 45,000. Total number of deaths not reported. One death from diphtheria and 2 deaths from measles.

Quebec—Sherbrook.—Month of November, 1899. Estimated population, 10,760. Total number of deaths, 18. No contagious diseases reported.

GERMANY—*Weimar*.—Month of October, 1899. Estimated population, 47,438. Total number of deaths, 50. No deaths from contagious diseases reported.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns in England and Wales during the week ended November 25, 1899, correspond to an annual rate of 19.3 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 11,404,408. The highest rate was recorded in Preston, viz, 29.7, and the lowest in Huddersfield, viz, 12.1.

London.—One thousand five hundred and twenty-six deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 44; scarlet fever, 13; diphtheria, 43; whooping cough, 16; enteric fever, 29, and diarrhea and dysentery, 10. The deaths from all causes correspond to an annual rate of 17.5 a thousand. In Greater London 2,054 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 16.4 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included 18 from diphtheria, 5 from measles, 1 from scarlet fever, and 5 from whooping cough.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended November 25, 1899, in the 22 principal town districts of Ireland was 24.6 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,053,188. The lowest rate was recorded in Drogheda, viz, 3.8, and the highest in Kilkenny, viz, 42.5 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 220 deaths were registered, including diphtheria, 2; enteric fever, 4; measles, 38, and 1 from scarlet fever.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended November 25, 1899, correspond to an annual rate of 19.0 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,587,414. The lowest mortality was recorded in Aberdeen, viz, 13.1, and the highest in Greenock, viz, 37.6 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 581, including diphtheria, 13; measles, 43; scarlet fever, 8, and whooping cough, 14.